(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Since August, 2004, lists of individuals including Pakistani nationals wanted for terrorist acts in India have been handed over 10 times to the Government of Pakistan, and most recently on 25-26 November, 2008 during the Home Secretary level talks with Pakistan. This lists 10 Pakistani nationals in a total list of 42 persons.

(c) and (d) It has been the stand of the Government that all those wanted for terrorist crimes should be brought to justice.

Malpractices in passport offices

2147. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI P.R. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are incidents of malpractice in issuing passport in passport office in the country for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details including the action taken on the complaints of the passport offices for the last five years, State-wise, year-wise and incident-wise;

(c) if so, the details of passport issued on the recommendations of authorized signatories *i.e.* without the proper channel for the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if so, the allegations, if any, on the passport issued under above category in details; and

(e) the steps taken to nail such incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected along the requested lines.

(e) Government has taken various steps including:—

(i) sanctioning prosecution by the concerned investigating agencies; appropriate departmental action against the errant officials;

(ii) periodic surprise inspections, including vigilance inspections of Passport Offices;

(iii) under the Passport Seva Project, passports will be tracked from the India Security Press till issue to applicants. National level index checking will also be introduced to ensure that an applicant does not take a second passport from a different Passport Office; and

(iv) computerization of Passport Offices; computerized monitoring of processing of applications; and improvements in the security features in the passport.